

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT  
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Applicant : Tarara et al. ) Group Art Unit 1615  
Appl. No. : )  
Filed : December 22, 1998 ) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
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(Date)  
Kathy Honnert )  
Kathy Honnert

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present application is a divisional of pending U.S. Application No. 09/219,736, filed December 22, 1998, which is a continuation of PCT Application No.: US98/20602, filed September 29, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/133,848, filed August 14, 1998 now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/106,932 filed June 29, 1998 now abandoned which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No.: 60/060,337 filed September 29, 1997 and now lapsed.